

## Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CAB-02 COME-00

DOT-00 EB-07 CIEP-01 FAA-00 SAM-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 /074 W  
----- 072419

O R 151011Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0044

INFO SECDEF

JCS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 8287

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, EAIR, KS

SUBJECT: FIRING ON NORTHWEST AIRCRAFT

REF: (A) STATE 255220, (B) COMUSKK 141301Z

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENTS SINCE REFTEL B.
2. AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 15 ROK MINISTRY OF DEFENSE ISSUED FOLLOWING:

ROK MND ANNOUNCED TODAY, 15 OCT 1976, THAT LAST NIGHT AT APPROXIMATELY 1819 HOURS (14 OCT), SEOUL ANTI AIRCRAFT BATTERIES FIRED WARNING SHOTS AGAINST UNKNOWN/UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT. RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION REVEALED THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS A BOEING 707 NUMBER 902, CHARTERED CARGO PLANE.

IT IS CONFIRMED THAT THE AIRCRAFT DEPARTED KIMPO AIRPORT FOR OSAKA, JAPAN AND VIOLATED P-73 WHILE ENROUTE DUE TO A NAVIGATIONAL ERROR.

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UNFORTUNATELY, MANY CITIZENS WERE WOUNDED DURING THE WARNING

FIRE. MND EXPRESSES DEEP REGRET THEREFORE, AND CONCERNING COMPENSATION FOR INJURY TO PERSONS OR PROPERTY, AND WILL PROVIDE PROMPT AND PROPER MEASURES.

3. EARLIER IN DAY, VICE MINISTER OF DEFENSE YI MIN U TOLD NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEFENSE COMMITTEE THAT 21 PERSONS HAD BEEN INJURED, 8 SERIOUSLY. NO DEATHS HAVE BEEN REPORTED, AND EMBASSY HAS NO REPORT OF INJURIES TO AMERICANS. HOWEVER, PROJECTILES AND FRAGMENTS LANDED IN EMBASSY AND UNC RESIDENCE AREAS AND THERE WAS NEGIBLE PROPERTY DAMAGE.

4. INVESTIGATION BY ROK MND, AS INFORMALLY REPORTED TO UNC, INDICATES THAT AIRCRAFT WAS GIVEN INCORRECT ROUTING BY KIMPO AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL. THIS WAS CORRECTED BUT NOT UNTIL PLANE HAD NEARED, OR POSSIBLY ENTERED, PROHIBITED AIR SPACE.

5. EMBASSY HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN INFORMALLY TO ROK OFFICIALS, INCLUDING DIRECTOR OF JCS STAFF, LT. GEN YU PYONG HYON, WHO ATTENDED RECEPTION AT EMBASSY COMPOUND THAT EVENING AND WAS GIVEN FRAGMENT OF PROJECTILE THAT FELL INTO COMPOUND DURING FIRING. WE WILL BE MAKING FURTHER APPROACHES ON FORMAL BASIS IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

6. AS REGARDS CORRECTIVE ACTION, IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT INCORRECT DIRECTIVE FROM ATC DOES NOT RELIEVE PILOT OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR CORRECT NAVIGATION OF AIRCRAFT AND FOR AVOIDANCE OF PROHIBITED AREAS. VISIBILITY AT TIME WAS ADEQUATE TO SEE HIGH-INTENSITY STROBE LIGHTS THAT SURROUND CITY AND ELECTRONIC NAVAIDS ALSO AVAILABLE. HOWEVER, WE AGREE THAT SHOOTING DOWN OF COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT OVER SEOUL WOULD BE CATASTROPHE AND WE BELIEVE ROKG IS NOW MORE SENSITIVE TO THIS ISSUE THAN IT MAY HAVE BEEN IN PAST. ISSUE OF CONTROL OVER ANTI-AIRCRAFT BATTERIES IN CAPITOL AREA HAS ALSO BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION WITH ROKG DURING RECENT MONTHS AND USFK EXPECTS TO MAKE FURTHER SPECIFIC PROPOSALS IN NEAR FUTURE. FURTHER RESPONSE TO REF A IN PREPARATION.

7. LOCAL NWA MANAGER HAS ASKED FOR INFORMATION, NOTING THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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HE HAS NO DIRECT KNOWLEDGE OF INCIDENT. WE PLAN TO INFORM HIM OF GIST OF INVESTIGATION, BUT URGE THAT NO PUBLIC STATEMENTS BE MADE, IN VIEW OF APPARENT ROKG WILLINGNESS TO MAKE COMPENSATION AND DESIRABILITY OF PURSUING RESOLUTION WITHOUT CAUSING ROKG FURTHER PUBLIC EMBARRASSMENT.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS, TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT, INVESTIGATIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 OCT 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976SEOUL08287  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760387-1160  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 255220  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2004 by KelleyW0>  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, MILI, EAIR, KS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006